

NWS Grand Junction, Colorado

February 2021

Climate Summary for Eastern Utah and Western Colorado

Produced by Megan Stackhouse, Meteorologist

February was an active month from the start as a strong and moist Pacific storm system pushed across eastern Utah and western Colorado February 2-4. 5 to 12 inches of snow fell across the northern and central mountains with 2 to 4 inches reported in some of the adjacent high valleys. A snow squall impacted the Crested Butte area with this system as a heavy band of snow reduced visibilities to near zero in a short period of time. The unsettled weather continued throughout the rest of the month with a series of disturbances moving into the region every few days. The most notable was the February 13-14 system which dumped generally one to two feet of snow for the southern mountains with 5 to 12 inches of snow reported in the southern valleys including the cities of Cortez, Durango and Pagosa Springs. An isolated band of snow produced 4 to 8" of snow in the town of Montrose with locally higher amounts up to 10".

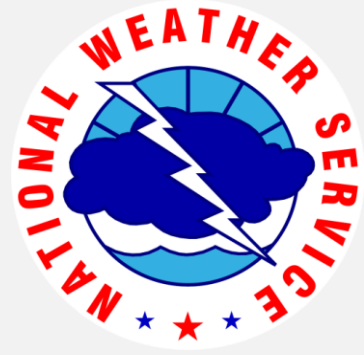
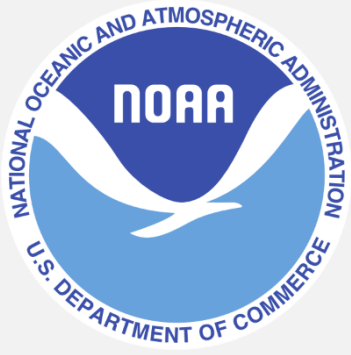
February was on average drier than normal across the region as 7 out of the 10 automated stations found at airports across eastern Utah and western Colorado ended the month with below normal precipitation. February was either cooler or warmer than normal across the region depending on where you were located with mean temperatures ranging anywhere from up to 1 degree above normal or up to 3 degrees cooler than normal.

Table of Contents

Please note that all data mentioned is collected from our automated observing stations from 10 different airports across eastern Utah and western Colorado. Some of our cooperative observers in more remote areas may have measured warmer or colder temperatures, or more or less precipitation than what was mentioned in this summary.

Page Number	Page Title
1	Cover
2	Table of Contents
3	Story of the Month
4	Temperatures
5	Precipitation
6	Total Monthly Precipitation
7	Monthly Precipitation Departure from Normal
8	Drought Conditions as of March 2 nd
9	Snowpack Conditions as of March 5 th
10	Next Month Outlook





Story of the Month

13-14 FEBRUARY WINTER STORM

An area of low pressure lifted across the Four Corners area. Warm southwest flow out ahead kept temperatures warm in the valleys with some areas receiving rain before all precipitation changed to snow as a strong cold front moved through. Moderate to heavy snow fell in most of the western Colorado mountains as well as in the southern valleys. 1 to almost 2 feet of snow fell in the SW San Juans with 6 to 12" around the cities of Cortez, Durango and Pagosa Springs. An isolated band of snow produced 4 to 8" of snow in the town of Montrose with locally higher amounts up to 10".



W Pagosa Springs on 2/14/21
(Credit: Jenny Lynn Heckmann)

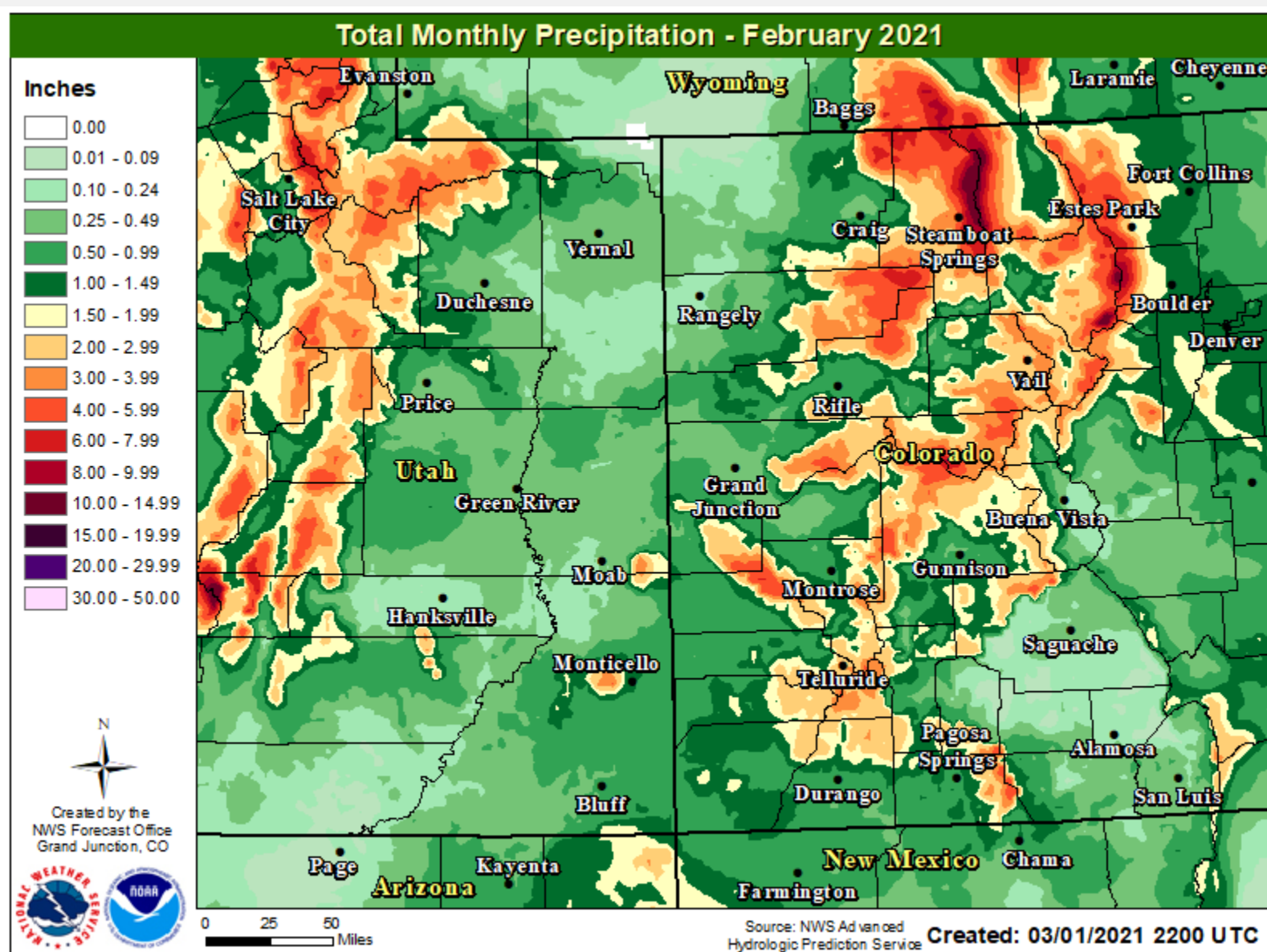
February 2021 Temperatures

Location	Average Temp (°F) (Versus Normal)	Warmest Temp (°F)	Coldest Temp (°F)
Aspen, CO	24.0 (+1.8)	48 on 2/2	2 on 2/28
Cortez, CO	31.0 (-1.0)	57 on 2/3	2 on 2/18
Craig, CO	21.4 (+0.7)	46 on 2/2	-9 on 2/18
Durango, CO	27.5 (-1.0)	49 on 2/2-3, 11	-2 on 2/17
Grand Junction, CO	34.6 (+0.1)	58 on 2/8	13 on 2/28
Meeker, CO	22.1 (-2.8)	47 on 2/2-3	-9 on 2/18
Montrose, CO	32.0 (-0.5)	57 on 2/3	6 on 2/15
Rifle, CO	30.7 (Normal)	52 on 2/3	5 on 2/18
Canyonlands Airport, UT	35.9 (+0.7)	62 on 2/8	12 on 2/28
Vernal, UT	26.7 (+0.9)	48 on 2/8	5 on 2/1

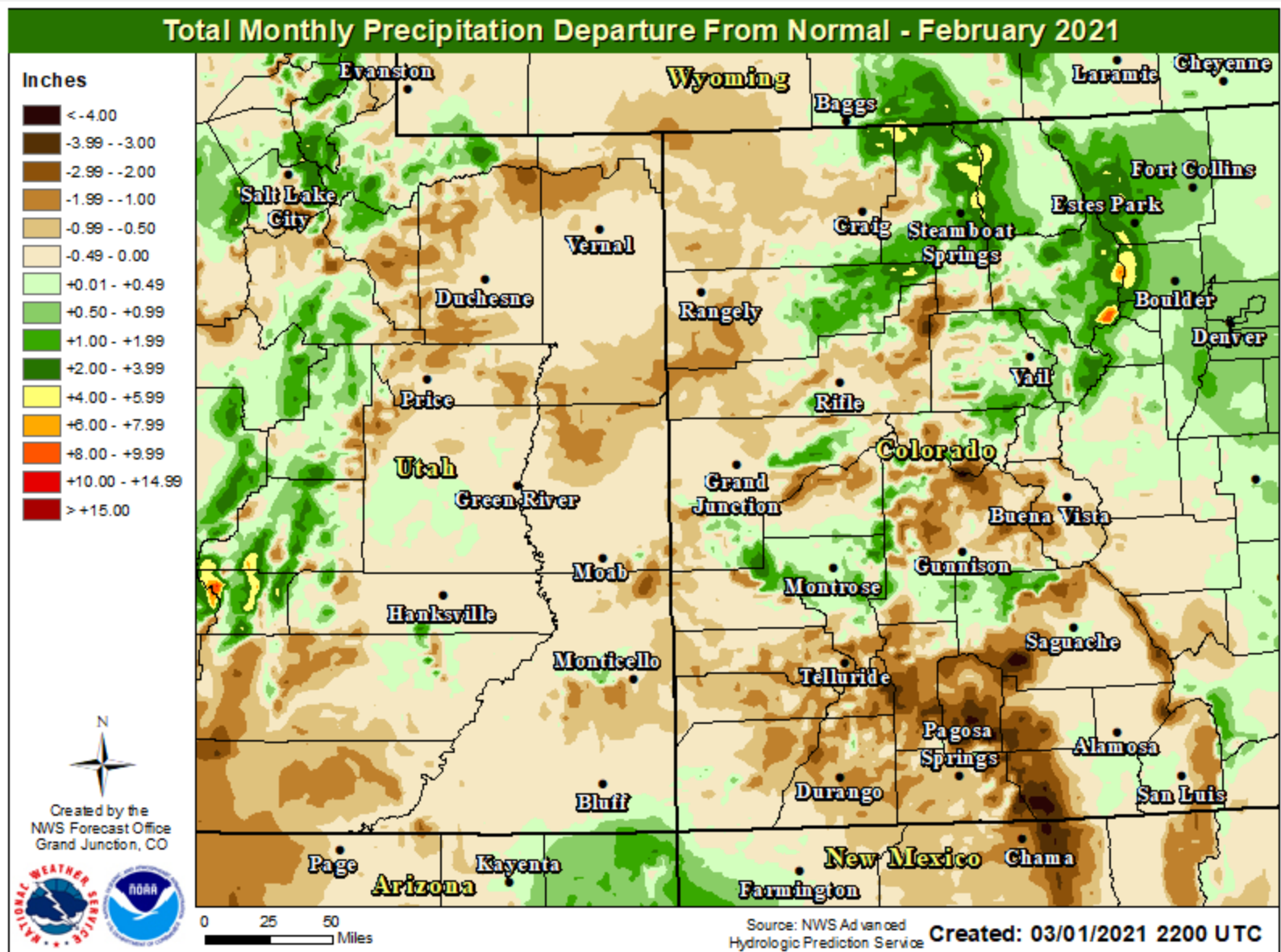
February 2021 Precipitation

Location	Total Precipitation (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)
Aspen, CO	1.27	+0.06
Cortez, CO	1.17	+0.29
Craig, CO	0.81	-0.01
Durango, CO	1.00	-0.16
Grand Junction, CO	0.32	-0.22
Meeker, CO	0.99	-0.03
Montrose, CO	0.72	+0.14
Rifle, CO	0.57	-0.19
Canyonlands Airport, UT	0.28	-0.24
Vernal, UT	0.31	-0.21

Total Monthly Precipitation

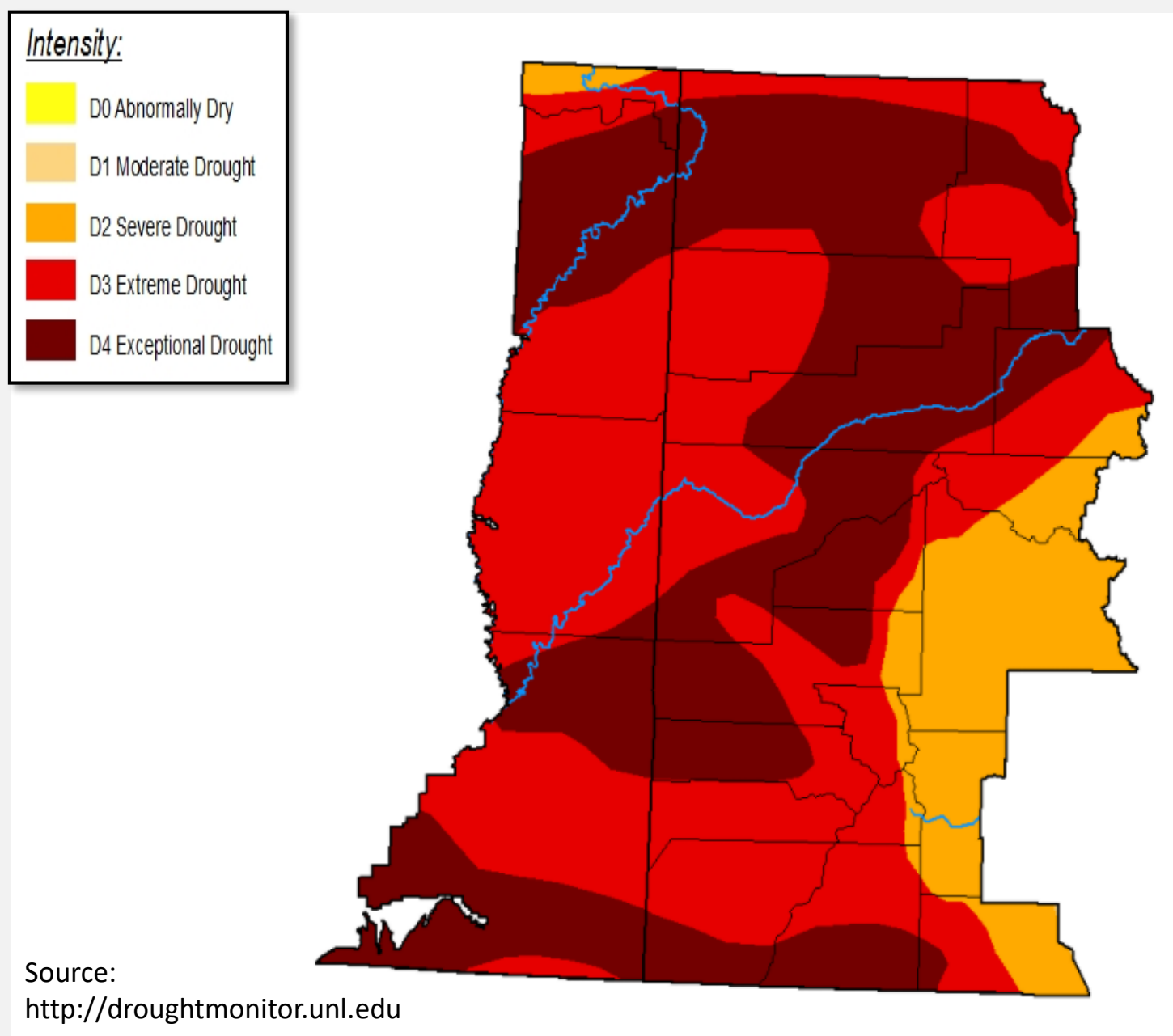


Monthly Precipitation Departure from Normal

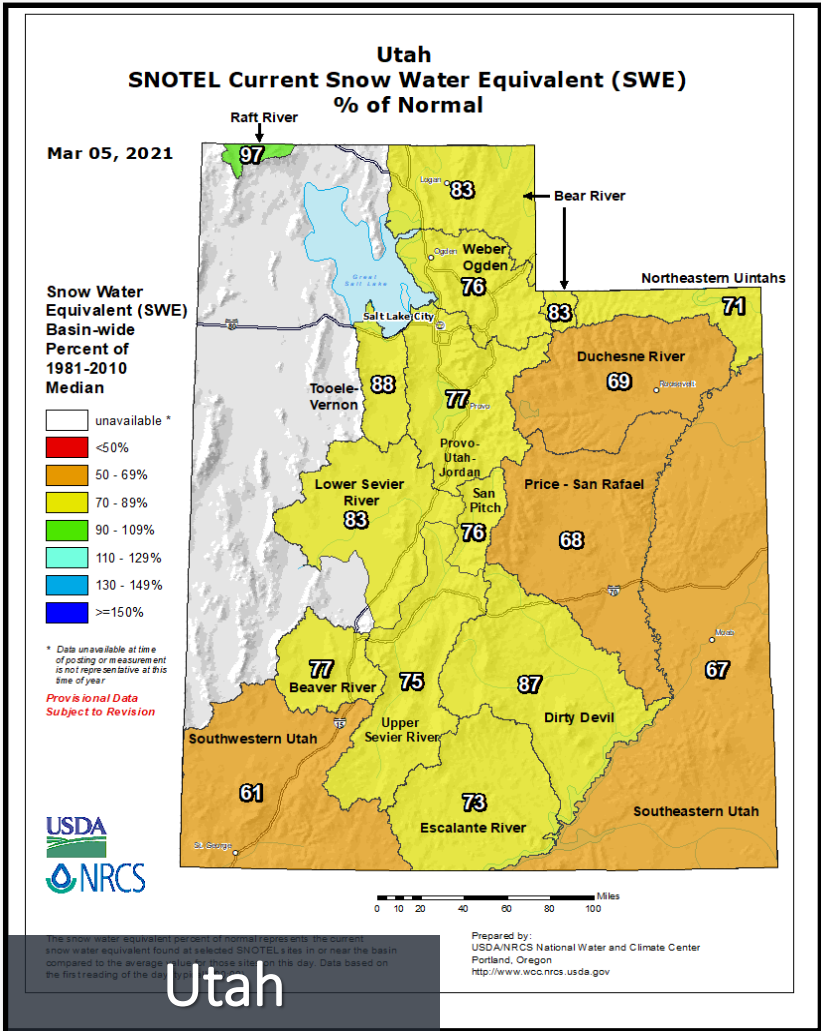


Drought Conditions as of March 2nd

Extreme (D3) to exceptional (D4) drought persisted across the majority of eastern Utah and western Colorado throughout February. However, there was some improvement to the severe (D2) category in portions of Pitkin, Gunnison, Ouray, San Juan, Hinsdale, and Archuleta counties towards the end of the month.

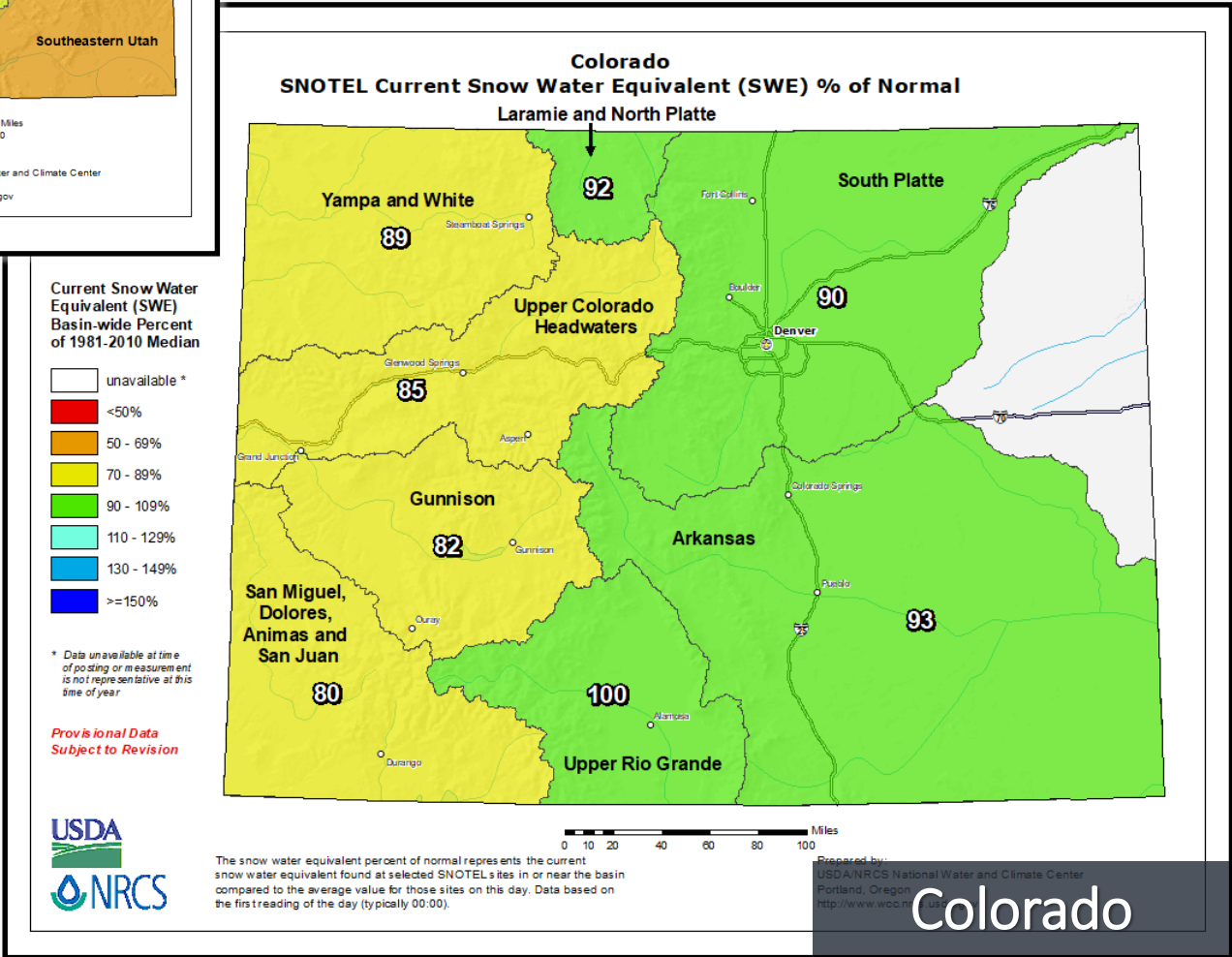


Snowpack Conditions as of March 5th



For Utah...The snowpack for the eastern Utah basins is around 65-70% of normal

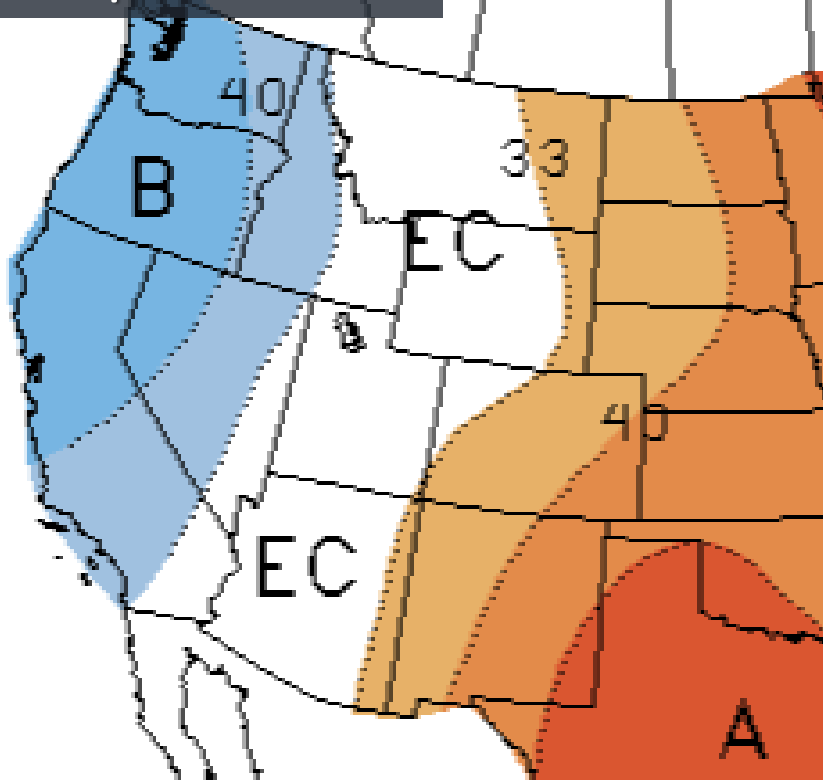
For Colorado...The snowpack for the western Colorado basins remains 80 to 90% of normal



March Outlook

For March, the latest outlook from the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) shows odds favoring warmer than normal temperatures across west-central and southwest Colorado. As far as precipitation goes, drier than normal conditions are favored for all of eastern Utah and western Colorado.

Temperatures



Precipitation

